

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 07510 080836Z

21-12

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 CU-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DODE-00 L-02 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 PRS-01 SPC-01

DRC-01 /060 W

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R 080800Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 962

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

S E C R E T SEOUL 7510

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJECT: ROKG ATTITUDE ON CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION

1. IN NOVEMBER 6 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR, PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARY GENERAL KIM CHONG-YOM INDICATED THAT NEITHER PRESIDENT PARK NOR HIS CLOSEST ADVISORS VIEWED PRESENT STUDENT PROTEST AS POSING SERIOUS POLITICAL THREAT. KIM PROFESSED CONFIDENCE IN EXISTING POLICE CONTROL APPARATUS AND SAID THAT BLUE HOUSE HAS UNDER CONTINUING STUDY MORE SOPHISTICATED MECHANISMS FOR ASSURING FUTURE CONTROL OF THE UNIVERSITIES AND FOR PUTTING "PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY" ON THE FACULTY AND STUDENTS.

2. IN GENERALLY ASSESSING SITUATION, KIM EMPHASIZED THAT FARMERS ARE ENJOYING BUMPER RICE CROP THIS YEAR AND ARE CONTENT. IN URBAN AREAS JOBS ARE MORE PLENTIFUL AND LIVING STANDARDS ARE IMPROVING. KIM SAW NO PROBLEM AMONG MILITARY. HE SAID ONLY GROUPS HOSTILE TO GOVERNMENT AND POSING
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 07510 080836Z

PROBLEM ARE INTELLECTUALS AND STUDENTS. HOWEVER,

KIM MAINTAINED THAT NUMBER OF ACTIVISTS AND AGITATORS WAS SMALL. KIM SAID, ACTIVISTS WERE BEING IDENTIFIED. RINGLEADERS IN DEMONSTRATIONS WOULD BE TRIED AND WOULD BE IMPRISONED.

4. COMMENT: KIM APPEARED COMPLETELY CONFIDENT IN HIS PRESENTATION. HIS VIEWS UNDOUBTEDLY REFLECT ASSESSMENTS GIVEN PRESIDENT PARK BY HIS BLUE HOUSE STAFF, AND PROBABLY THE PRESIDENT'S OWN VIEW. AT SAME TIME, OTHER PRO-GOVERNMENT FIGURES (SUCH AS SPEAKER CHONG IL-KWON) WHO ARE LESS CLOSE TO THE CENTER OF POLITICAL POWER DO EXPRESS CONCERN. THESE PRO-GOVERNMENT FIGURES ARE LESS CONCERNED OVER PRESENT SITUATION GETTING OUT OF HAND THAN THEY ARE OVER THE DIRECTION OF EVENTS, OVER WHAT THEY SEE AS THE RELATIVE ISOLATION OF PRESIDENT PARK, AND OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE SERIOUS INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES CAUSED BY A TOO-HEAVY HAND BY THE PRESIDENT.
HABIB

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NNN

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